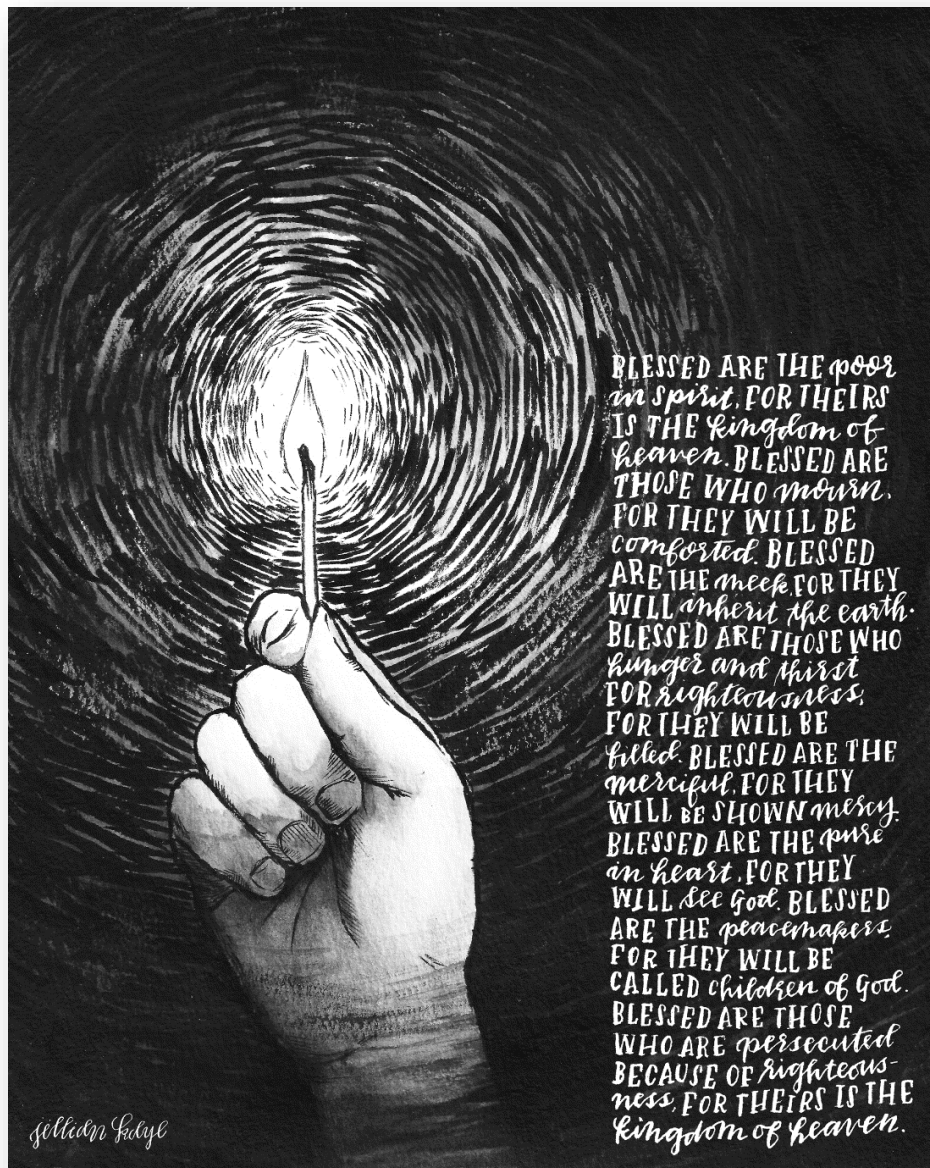


Season of Epiphany



January 29, 2023

Advent Lutheran Church

8840 University City Blvd

Charlotte, NC 28213

(704) 549-1555

www.adventlu.org

Pastoral Welcome

Prelude

“Joyful, Joyful”

Morning Chimes

Confession and Forgiveness

L: We gather in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

L: Let us confess together.

C: God, we confess that sometimes we prefer to hide under cover of darkness where we justify our actions and behaviors as if they were secret and hidden from you.

We become calloused by our apathy.

We become complicit by our silence.

We become co-opted by our desires.

But, your light of true freedom shines *even* in the darkness, calling us to a more excellent way.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

L: God has forgiven you all your sins in Jesus Christ and filled you with the power of the Holy Spirit. May your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify God forever.

C: Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Greeting

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of Illumination

L: Let us pray.

Come, Spirit of God,

You are the restless breath of love that sweeps through the world.

You move where you will, breaking down barriers,

Stirring hearts to change, making all things possible.

Inspire each one of us to hunger and thirst for justice!

Come, Spirit of God,
Sweep through our world bringing great change.
May the bounty of your goodness be shared more justly,
So, all may experience the rich blessings of your creation.
And, for us, bring transformation in our praying and living,
So that we may act justly, love mercy,
And walk humbly with you all the days of our lives.

C: Amen.

The First Reading

Micah 6:1-8

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God!

The Gospel Acclamation



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Scripture

Matthew 5:1-12

The Message

Song of the Day

ELW #728 *"Blest Are They"*

Blest are they, the poor in spirit
Theirs is the kingdom of God
Blest are they, full of sorrow
They shall be consoled

Rejoice and be glad
Blessed are you; holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the Kingdom of God!

Blest are they, the lowly ones
They shall inherit the earth
Blest are they, who hunger and thirst
They shall have their fill

Rejoice and be glad
Blessed are you; holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the Kingdom of God!

Blest are they who show mercy
Mercy shall be theirs
Blest are they, the pure of heart
They shall see God

Rejoice and be glad
Blessed are you; holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the Kingdom of God!

Blest are they who seek peace
They are the children of God
Blest are they who suffer in faith
The glory of God is theirs

Rejoice and be glad
Blessed are you; holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the Kingdom of God!

Blest are you who suffer hate
All because of me
Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom
Shine for all to see

**Rejoice and be glad
Blessed are you; holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the Kingdom of God!**

The Maasai Creed⁺

We believe in the one High God,
who out of love created the beautiful world
and everything good in it.

God created man and woman
and wanted them to be happy in the world.

God loves the world and every nation
and tribe on the Earth.

We have known this High God in darkness,
and now we know God in the light.

God promised in the book of His word, the Bible,
that God would save the world
and all the nations and tribes.

We believe that God made good God's promise
by sending the Son, Jesus Christ,
a man in the flesh, a Jew by tribe,
born poor in a little village,
who left his home and was always on safari doing good,
curing people by the power of God,
teaching about God and humans,
showing the meaning of religion is love.

He was rejected by his people,
tortured and nailed hands and feet to a cross and died.

He lay buried in the grave,
but the hyenas did not touch him,
and on the third day, he rose from the grave.

He ascended to the skies. He is the Lord.

We believe that all our sins are forgiven through him.
All who have faith in him must be sorry for their sins,
be baptized in the Holy Spirit of God,
live the rules of love and share the bread together in love,
to announce the Good News to others
until Jesus comes again.

We are waiting for Him. He is alive. He lives.

This we believe. Amen.

⁺ A beautiful example of a creed is the *Maasai Creed*. It was written around 1960 by the Congregation of the Holy Ghost ("Spiritans") in East Nigeria. It is designed on a threefold pattern of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Prayers of the Faithful

- L: Let us pray. God of life and of truth, your Son, Jesus, invites us to see the world through your eyes and we find ourselves disoriented:
You bless the poor in spirit.
You bless those who mourn.
You bless the meek.
You bless the pure in heart.
You bless those who are persecuted for justice.
You turn our world and its values upside down.

We sit at Jesus' feet, so we can learn to follow the way of the kingdom. Awaken in us that hunger and thirst for you which will lead us to do your will and seek your peace.

(Silence)

- L: God of life and of truth, we pray for the poor of our world, for whom the kingdom of heaven often seems distant and unattainable. We pray for those who are without homes and for the issues of affordable housing in our city. We specifically pray for our guests at Room in the Inn this past Monday: Carol, Sherrill, Kionna, Tahira, Erica, Terra, Selbrani, Kymber-Leigh, Nelly, Regina. Blessed are the poor in spirit,

C: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

- L: God of life and truth, we pray for those who face persecution and violence, for whom peace, safety, and security seem fleeting. We pray for our Ukrainian brothers and sisters who have openly resisted the invasion of their country for almost 11 months and who have sacrificed so much for the cause of independence. We pray for all women and girls who continue to speak out for their rights in Iran, Afghanistan, and other communities where their voices have been silenced.

We pray for the family of Tyre Nichols and for the entire city of Memphis. Even as we seek peace, we stand in opposition to all who misuse their civil authority to terrorize and abuse those whom they are called to protect and serve.

We pray for the families of the 18 killed in two separate shootings in California in the last week. We also pray for the families of the 7 killed by a gunman outside of a synagogue in Jerusalem on Friday. Even as we seek peace, we stand in opposition to all who use violence against another group because religious and racial differences, ethnic ideologies, sexual orientation.

Even as we seek peace, God, our hearts are broken, and our prayers feel insufficient; but we will continue to pray for a world where peace and abundant life are the rule and not the exception. Blessed are we and all peacemakers in this world,

C: for we will be called your children.

L: God of life and truth, we pray for those who mourn and seek healing in body, mind, and spirit.

L: We especially pray for:

- Larry Cartin
- Terence Connelly
- Judee Coyle
- Charliese Eichler
- Edith Frisina
- Vincent Frisina Sr.
- Dwight Hartsell
- Carol Hollingsworth
- Gary Homesley
- Donnell Horton
- Andy Jacobs
- Bob Keen
- Ashley King
- Waylon Kuklantz
- LouAnn & Allen Lamb
- Jacob Mosher
- Jane Ogilvie
- Kate Peer
- Joyce Quigley
- Michael Searing
- Ron Stemple
- David Townsend
- Laura Tucker
- Michelle Veit
- Augustin Villacis
- Laverne Waskielis
- Herbert Watson
- Renate Wilson
- Chuck Wolfe

L: And for the deepest hopes of our hearts, we pray now.

Time for the community to pray.

L: We remember and celebrate the lives of those who have died, especially:

- Robert Weitzel, father of Diane Large, on January 15

By your Holy Spirit, comfort their families, and all who grieve, give peace to those who mourn, strengthen all through the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ.

L: Blessed are all who seek healing and those who mourn,

C: for they will be comforted.

L: God of life and of truth, we ask these things in the name of your Son, Jesus who blesses us with your living presence and fills our lives with your life-changing truth.

C: Amen

SHARING THE MEAL

Offering *(Please sign and pass the pew pads)*

Offertory Song *“Dreamers and Doubters”* Sanctuary Singers

Table Prayer

- L: God of grace, all you have made is good and your love endures forever. By your very breath you give us life and by your hand you bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine.
- C: Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world living signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Words of Institution

The Lord’s Prayer *(sung)*

- C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil, for the kingdom, the pow’r and the glory are yours, now and forever.**

Communion Songs ELW #471 *“Let Us Break Bread Together”*

Post-Communion Blessing

- L: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us now and forever.
- C: Amen.**

SENDING GOD’S PEOPLE

Franciscan Blessing

- L: May God bless us with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that we may live deep within our hearts.
- May God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that we may work for justice, freedom, and peace.
- And may God bless us with enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in this world, so that we can do what others claim cannot be done.
- C: Amen.**

Sending Song

ELW #723 "Canticle of the Turning"



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**